



16th Special Operations Wing

Hurlburt Field, Fla.

June 22, 2001

AEF deployment pulls AFSOC units together

by 2nd Lt. Rosemary Heiss
Public Affairs

About 200 members of the 16th Special Operations Wing are shaking sand out of their boots after a 90-day deployment to Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait, in support of Operation Southern Watch.

Aerospace Expeditionary Force IV, from March 1 to May 31, took airmen from the 16th and 919th Special Operations wings and the 720th Special Tactics Group to the desert to provide combat search and rescue support to the United Nations-sanctioned no-fly-zone below the 33rd parallel in Iraq.

The AEF provided the opportunity to do a real-world mission, and according to Lt. Col. Brad Webb, commander of the Air Force Special Operations detachment there and 20th Special Operations Squadron director of operations here, his team was fired up about it. Game faces were on, and warfighting skills were at their peak, he said.

Though the administrative staff had to work out of back packs for the first two weeks because no offices were available and though the tent-dwellers usually got covered in sand during the night, the deployment allowed Special Operators to get realistic practice and time doing real-world missions.

"We were in a country enforcing a no-fly-zone, and at any time we could go into Iraq," said Staff Sgt. Paul Orse, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron and one of the team leaders during the deployment. "It was a great opportunity to work with helos and to work on combat skills we normally wouldn't do. We got to work on the full spectrum to see how everything was conducted."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Elliot

Pararescuemen Senior Airman Corey Oberst (left), 21st Special Tactics Squadron and Staff Sgt. Paul Orse, 23rd STS, carry a "survivor" to safety as Combat Controller Staff Sgt. Bill Adams, 21st STS, surveys the area for threats. They were participants in one of the ongoing combat search and rescue exercises during the Aerospace Expeditionary Force IV deployment.

The Air Force Special Ops detachment, or AFSOD as they called themselves, stepped in to take over the CSAR mission from Air Combat Command's HH-60s and HC-130s.

Among their operational assets were MH-53 Pave Lows from the 20th SOS and MC-130E Combat Talon Is flown by the active duty 8th SOS and the Reserve 711th SOS.

The detachment performed CSAR exercises almost every Friday with other members of the CSAR team such as Marine F-18s and Air Force F-15s and E-3 Airborne Warning and Control Systems — training that takes place here about once every three months.

"It was a well put together deployment," said Capt. Nathan Scopac, 8th SOS navigator. "The professionalism was

great. We all felt we were doing a real mission. We saw how vital CSAR is to the whole AEF."

He was especially impressed with Combat Talon I maintainers. "They did a great job keeping planes ready to fly," he said, noting that maintenance problems didn't interfere with any missions throughout

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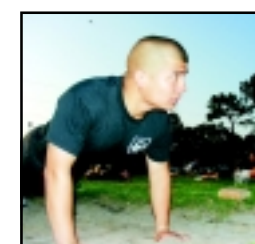


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TACP candidates

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VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**.

Others will be answered by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible.

This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. David Scott
Commander, 16th SOW

We understand job

Comment: I'd like to comment on the open line in the March 30 edition of the **COMMANDO**, concerning numerous temporary duties. I understand the writer's situation, but I've been in the military nearly 20 years now enduring many deployments. In the past two years alone I've been deployed five times. Yes, it's a hardship, but that's our job, and I think people should understand that. Everyone I work with has a similar work schedule, but we do it with pride and our families stand up and support us, because that's what we do — serve our country. I'm sure we're not the only family who feels this way, but I wanted to let you know there are those of us out here who are proud to serve.

Reply: Thanks for your comments.

30 reasons I'll never leave the Air Force

by **Capt. Matteo Martemucci**
51st Operations Support Squadron

Osan AB, Korea — I'm going to tell you why I'll never willingly leave this great Air Force.

A few weeks ago, my first child was born, more than 8,000 miles away in Virginia. He was born on the living room floor of our house, a month early, to the great surprise of his mother and me. Both mom and baby are doing very well, and now I get to bask in the pride and excitement of being a new father.

After the excitement was over, I had time to analyze the sequence of events. I realized I was part of something very special — something I probably wouldn't find outside the warm walls of this military family.

At 2:30 a.m., my wife, eight months pregnant and alone at home, awoke to feelings of pain. Her first instinct was to call a close friend, also a military spouse. Within minutes, Jean, an Army major's wife from nearby Fort Monroe, Va., arrived.

Jean realized my wife was in advanced labor and called an ambulance. She also called Monica, a friend and Air Force major stationed with my wife at Langley Air Force Base, Va. With the help of these two friends and some local emergency medical technicians, my wife delivered a healthy boy in our living room. Jean and Monica are two reasons I'll never leave the Air Force.

Monica knew I was in Korea and immediately contacted the command post at Langley. They connected her to the Osan command post and explained the situation.

On a hunch, Monica told them where I might be and, without hesitation, the Osan command post tracked me down at the base library.

I may be wrong, but hunting down a captain to inform him of the birth of his son is probably not in the command post controller's job description. But they did it without even blinking. They're two more reasons I'll never leave the Air Force.

After being connected to my wife and being assured everyone was all right, I called my flight commander to tell him the news.

Before I even asked, he contacted our squadron commander and they approved my leave and offered to help get

me home. They, too, are reasons I'll never leave the Air Force.

I needed to get home on the next flight to the states, and that meant getting on the Kimpo International Airport shuttle bus at 6 a.m. But I needed leave paperwork to get off the peninsula. My first sergeant, no stranger to late phone calls, jumped into action.

He made one phone call and the orderly room NCO in charge was in her car heading to work to personally type up the necessary papers.

With a smile on her face and hearty congratulations, she handed me my leave papers and disappeared into the freezing winter night. Two more reasons I'll never leave the Air Force.

The whole time during my long series of flights home, my wife had a close network of military friends who stayed with her. Even though her husband and family were far away, she was never alone — from the moment she made that first and only phone call.

These were all people who understood the unique situation of our shared military lifestyle.

They immediately jumped in to help, as Air Force families often do.

Less than 36 hours after I received the first phone call, I was home with my new family. Waiting for me were flowers from my flight and reassuring e-mails that my duties and responsibilities were being handled in my absence. The people in my flight are 22 more reasons I'll never leave the Air Force.

If I were working for some big faceless corporation, I wonder if I'd even have my boss's home phone number, let alone an entire organization that would jump up in the middle of the night to help a fellow airman.

Could I make more money working for a major corporation? Absolutely. Would the above events have happened if I worked for one? I doubt it. I promise you, the last thing on my mind that night, as I boarded the plane to meet my new son, was the size of my paycheck.

Would I trade my part in this military family for a few extra bucks? Never.

I've shared 30 reasons why I'd never voluntarily leave our Air Force, and yet these reasons come from only one single experience.

I could fill this story with hundreds of other reasons, and they'd all be Air Force people like these, whom my wife and I are proud to call family.



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News

Inaugural message from Air Force Secretary James Roche

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE:

I was recently sworn in as your 20th Secretary of the Air Force and became, on that day, a proud member of a magnificent team of active duty airmen, guardsmen, reservists and civilian employees. You have earned the admiration of our nation, the respect of the world and the promise of a bright future. I already can tell you that you should be enormously proud of your achievements, from combat operations over Iraq and the Balkans to your recent validation of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept. In the realm of aerospace power, you fly the best, train the best and maintain the best. As you put it: "No One Comes Close."

We must now turn our focus to the journey ahead and be responsive to this new century's emerging security environment. I look forward to piloting that journey with you. My focus is on developing new strategies for military aerospace power in this new millennium; improving Air Force retention, professional education and leadership development; eliminating the inefficiencies in how we do our business; and developing our acquisition policies and processes to ensure innovation and competitive vibrancy within our defense industrial base over the long haul. My vision is an aerospace future just as remarkable as your admired past: undeniable and global reconnaissance and strike superiority. My

pledge to you is that I will serve the way you do every day, worldwide – with integrity, selflessness, and in earnest pursuit of excellence.

In 1963, President John Kennedy said of military service: "I can imagine no more rewarding career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'"

That sentiment rings very true for me. As you know, I am deeply proud of my Navy career. But, today we are in a new century, with new opportunities, new challenges, new capabilities and vastly different threats to the security of our great nation. In this century, men and women can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: "I serve in the United States Air Force." And now, I am proud to be able to say that too.



**Air Force Secretary
James Roche**



**Airman 1st Class
Angelica Mata**

Name: Angelica Mata
Rank/Duty Title: Airman 1st Class/Pharmacy journeyman

Organization: 16th Medical Support Squadron

Hometown: Grand Rapids, Mich.

Hobbies: Reading, dancing, performing various Latin-style dances, running, working out, frame making and Honor Guard

Contribution to the mission: Airman Mata has contributed significantly as a team member of the 16th Medical Group Pharmacy, filling more than 16,000 prescriptions and refills monthly, supporting the mission of the 16th Special Operations Wing and the Hurlburt Field community. She's also a member of the base Honor Guard. Airman Mata was recently awarded the Chief's Group Sharp Troop Award.

(Editor's note: The COMMANDO highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job. All supervisors are encouraged to use this recognition program. Call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information.)

AEF

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the 90-day deployment.

The training became useful while the 16th SOW was still in Kuwait. March 13, ordnance was accidentally dropped on the Udairi Test Range, injuring friendly forces. Although not on alert, Special Operators were able to respond to the real-world incident within 20 minutes.

Second Lt. Paul Alexander, 20th SOS pilot, was one who responded to the call.

"We're there to do a mission, but we're ready to do whatever needs to be done," he said of helping at the Udairi Test Range. "That incident set the tone for the rest of the deployment to let people know we're there to do whatever you need us to do."

The helicopters were able to pick up four flight surgeons and Arabic interpreters and take them to Kuwait Military Hospital to assist after the accident.

The best part of the deployment for Lieutenant



Photo by Senior Airman James Davis

After the deployment, C5 Galaxies delivered MH-53 Pave Lows back to Hurlburt Field.

Alexander, a former Army Special Operations warrant officer, was watching the big picture come together.

"I'm happy to be part of Air Force Special Operations," he said. "We worked closely with all the forces. We built a good rapport with the fighters, and they got a better understanding of what we can provide. It was nice to see how well things work together."

Senior Airman Lavenia Johnson, 16th Helicopter Generation Squadron, provided staff support during the deployment, and she, too, was impressed with the way things worked. "I

never had the opportunity to see our people in action before the deployment," she said. "While I was there, I'd see them get called, and they'd go running to save somebody's life. They really take pride in what they do."

The detachment supported its alert commitment 100 percent, said Colonel Webb. There were no maintenance problems on any aircraft, which is an indication of the great maintainers, he said.

"In a situation like this, you ask yourself, 'Did you do your mission?' 'Did you do it 100 percent?' We did. I think that's a true success."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Elliot

Staff Sgt. David Risnear, 21st STS, Pope Air Force Base, N.C., jumps out of a Combat Talon I into the sunset on a last-light jump over Kuwait.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeff Roberts

Staff Sgt. Carey Jordan, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, looks over an artist's concept rendering of the new Civil Engineering Expedient Methods Training Area.

CE gets new training facility

by 1st Lt. Jeff Roberts
AFSOC Public Affairs

Ground was broken Wednesday for AFSOC's new training facility that will better prepare its civil engineers for deployment contingencies.

The Civil Engineering Expedient Methods Training Area will be located at the permanent exercise area and will include seven stations providing real-world electrical, structural, plumbing and gas training relating to the early phases of a contingency. Many people don't see the real-world, and often dangerous, missions civil engineers perform during worldwide contingencies and how crucial their skills are to putting bombs on target.

It is this type of capability that the headquarters wanted to focus on and to give a high priority.

"One of the responsibilities of the MAJCOM engineer is to organize, manage, train and equip civil engineers in the field," said Col. Michael Hrapla, command engineer. "We believe this facility, with its variety of skills training, will test our people's reactions to scenarios that are unlike most of their day-to-day operations but often

occur in the field during contingencies."

This training facility simulates the real-world deployments where multiple taskings have to be prioritized and accomplished in the same time frame.

Colonel Hrapla, Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Harris, engineering command senior NCO; and Tech. Sgt. Scott Weaver, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, brainstormed the idea for the facility during the first part of the operational readiness inspection here in April.

"Instead of just checking the end product for the inspection, the colonel asked the troops how they got to the answer, what they were thinking and what else they had to take into account in making those decisions," said Sergeant Harris.

The senior master sergeant also stated that the facility allows for hands-on experience and gives the troops a sense of accomplishment when the work is finished.

"It trains people to think on their feet because that's what's going to sustain you down range in Africa, Southwest Asia or elsewhere in the world," said Colonel Hrapla.

The training facility will be completed in August and will be integrated into monthly Prime Beef civil engineer training as well as future ORI scenarios.

Red Cross blood shortage critical

by Staff Sgt. André Nicholson
Public Affairs

The American Red Cross is experiencing a critical blood shortage. Due to new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease better known as "mad cow" disease, a ban was placed on some blood donations.

The ban, currently in effect, eliminates about 8 percent of current Red Cross blood donors — about 400,000 people, according to a recent American Red Cross press release. This ban contributes to the situation that the demand for blood is drastically outgrowing the supply of blood, the press release stated.

The deadly disease, which has no cure and is undetectable, is believed to be contracted by eating beef products from infected cattle, according to the release.

The Red Cross lists categories for people who are restricted from donating blood.

- Anyone who's lived in the United Kingdom for a cumulative total of three months since 1980.

- Anyone who's lived in any European country or combination of countries for a cumulative total of six months since 1980.

- Anyone who's received a blood transfusion in the United Kingdom since 1980.

Since there's no cure and no test that can be done to detect the disease, which can lay dormant for up to 20 years, the ban on blood donations will continue until one or the other is discovered, explained James Finch, assistant station manager for the Hurlburt Field American Red Cross.

"We try to get 40 pints of blood per month and we've fallen short of our

goal in the last two blood drives," Finch said of Hurlburt Field blood donations.

"The blood shortage is very critical right now," he said, desiring that base people understand the problem. In order to build an adequate blood supply people still need to come out and donate. They'll screen at the donation site before anyone is allowed to give blood, he added.

Several steps are being taken to increase and maintain a steady supply of donors, according to the press release:

- Contacting more than 2 million type O blood donors, the universal blood type, to ask for donations.

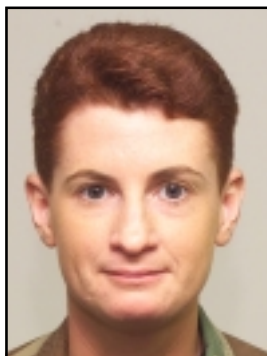
- Investing \$2.5 million in direct mail and advertising throughout the country.

- Establishing a national blood reserve — a strategically located reserve supply of blood supported by a state-of-the-art logistics and distribution system. The strategic blood reserve will provide a reliable source of lifesaving blood for hospitals and will help stabilize and grow the blood for all patients in need.

Although mad cow disease is the reason behind the ban on blood donations, the disease hasn't reached the United States and blood supplies are safe, Finch said. Also, the mad cow epidemic is the only reason for the ban on some blood.

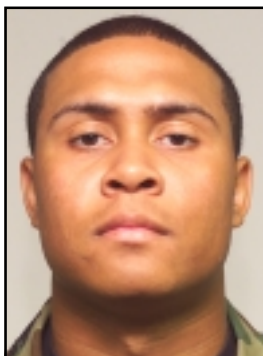
With the exclusion of some blood donors, the Red Cross will increase their efforts to recruit new volunteer donors and encourage more donations from the existing donors to prevent future shortfalls in blood availability, according to an American Red Cross medical policy letter. The next blood drive is July 27 and begins at 10 a.m. at the Hurlburt Field Chapel, building 90203.

Look who's talking: If you could only listen to one type of music for a year, what would it be and why?



"Alternative rock. It has a harder edge than pop music and no 'boy bands.'"

Staff Sgt. Charlotte Costa,
16th Communications Squadron



"It would have to be a little old school such as Earth, Wind and Fire; Lenny Williams; etc. I could tolerate this type of music for a year."

Airman 1st Class Kenneth McLaurin,
823rd RED HORSE Squadron



"Country because you can understand the words."

Lt. Col. Sue Nelson,
16th Support Group

Wrongful use of steroids punishable under UCMJ

by **Jim Sanders III**
Drug Demand Reduction Office

Unless prescribed for legitimate medical purposes by a licensed physician, it's illegal for Air Force members to use anabolic steroids. Steroids are classified as a Schedule III controlled substance, and wrongful use of steroids is punishable under Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Besides the trouble you can get into legally from the wrongful use of steroids, the medical effects of anabolic steroids bring about serious adverse reactions. The effects include physical changes to the anatomy such as shrinking of the testicles, sterility, development of adipose breast tissue, baldness, kidney disease, high blood pressure, tumors, enlargement and inflammation of the prostate and sperm reduction in males. Additionally, there are long term-effects to include the narrowing of the arterial walls and the increased risk of stroke. Furthermore, serious damage to the liver and the heart can occur and can lead to death.

Steroids mimic the effects of testosterone, the hormone for developmental characteristics in males such as the growth of fa-

cial hair. Using steroids causes an immediate increase in size and strength but the effects are short-lived because just as soon as the use of steroids is stopped, muscle size and strength return to normal levels.

Testing positive for use of steroids automatically places the servicemember's continued employment with the Air Force in jeopardy. The result of being identified for steroid use can lead to criminal prosecution resulting in a punitive discharge or administrative actions, including separation from the Air Force under other than honorable conditions.

In a recent article from the *Surgeon General Monthly Newswire*, Air Force Judge Advocate General, Maj. Gen. William Moorman, said, "The Air Force recruits and retains great people who consider illegal drug use unwise and unhealthy. But the Air Force is a huge organization and we can't expect that all members will be so steadfast in their attitudes regarding drugs. That's why we have a urinalysis drug testing program."

The bottom line is: the use of steroids without a doctor's prescription is illegal, and if caught, an airman can lose her or his career because the wrongful use of steroids is punishable under the UCMJ.

Legal office helps create wills, powers of attorney

by **Staff Sgt. Amy Harris**
Legal Office

The legal office provides assistance needed for times away from home, whether it's a will or power of attorney. These services are available on the mobility line, but the legal office recommends that people come to them in advance because it's never a good idea to wait until the last minute to take care of key issues.

It's important for all military members to have a will regardless of how much they own because in the event that something happens to them, a will helps those left behind have as little a burden as possible.

Powers of attorney are equally important. They enable airmen to appoint an agent to handle a number of personal affairs while away from home. Check cashing, bill payments or registration or sale of real or personal property are a few examples.

Finally, it's important to proofread the documents provided by the legal office. The staff makes every effort to ensure documents are correct, but they ask all members to review their wills and powers of attorney for accuracy.

The legal office is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily for powers of attorney and Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 to 9 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. and on Thursdays for service members only for assistance with wills.

Fireworks: fun, dangerous

by Tech. Sgt.
Dave Perruchon
Safety Office

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, about 7,000 people were treated for fireworks related injuries last year. Injuries have continued to decrease since 1991, but there's still cause for concern.

For the last 10 years, illegal fireworks such as the M-80 and M-100 have caused one-third of the injuries. At 24, a paramedic from New Jersey lost his left hand from an M-80 while horsing around with his family during a holiday celebration. Losing his hand not only affected him, but also his family and friends.

The only fireworks permitted for use on base, according to Hurlburt Field Instruction 32-2001, are sparklers, but even they have dangers. They can reach temperatures up to 1,800 degrees and can cause burns to anyone who handles them improperly.

Children should be supervised closely. Other fireworks must be coordinated through the base fire protection section prior to use.

For people handling fireworks off base, the state of Florida does not allow bottle rockets, Roman candles, fire crackers or any other type of fireworks that explode. It does allow the use of items such as snakes, glow worms, snappers and trick matches. For a complete list of what is allowed, refer to Florida Statue 719.01.

Here are some safety tips people should follow if they buy legal fireworks:

- Always read and follow the directions and have an adult present.
- Buy from a reliable fireworks seller and have water handy.
- Never disassemble, experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks, and never give fireworks to unsupervised children.
- Never mix alcohol and fireworks; the two can be a deadly combination.

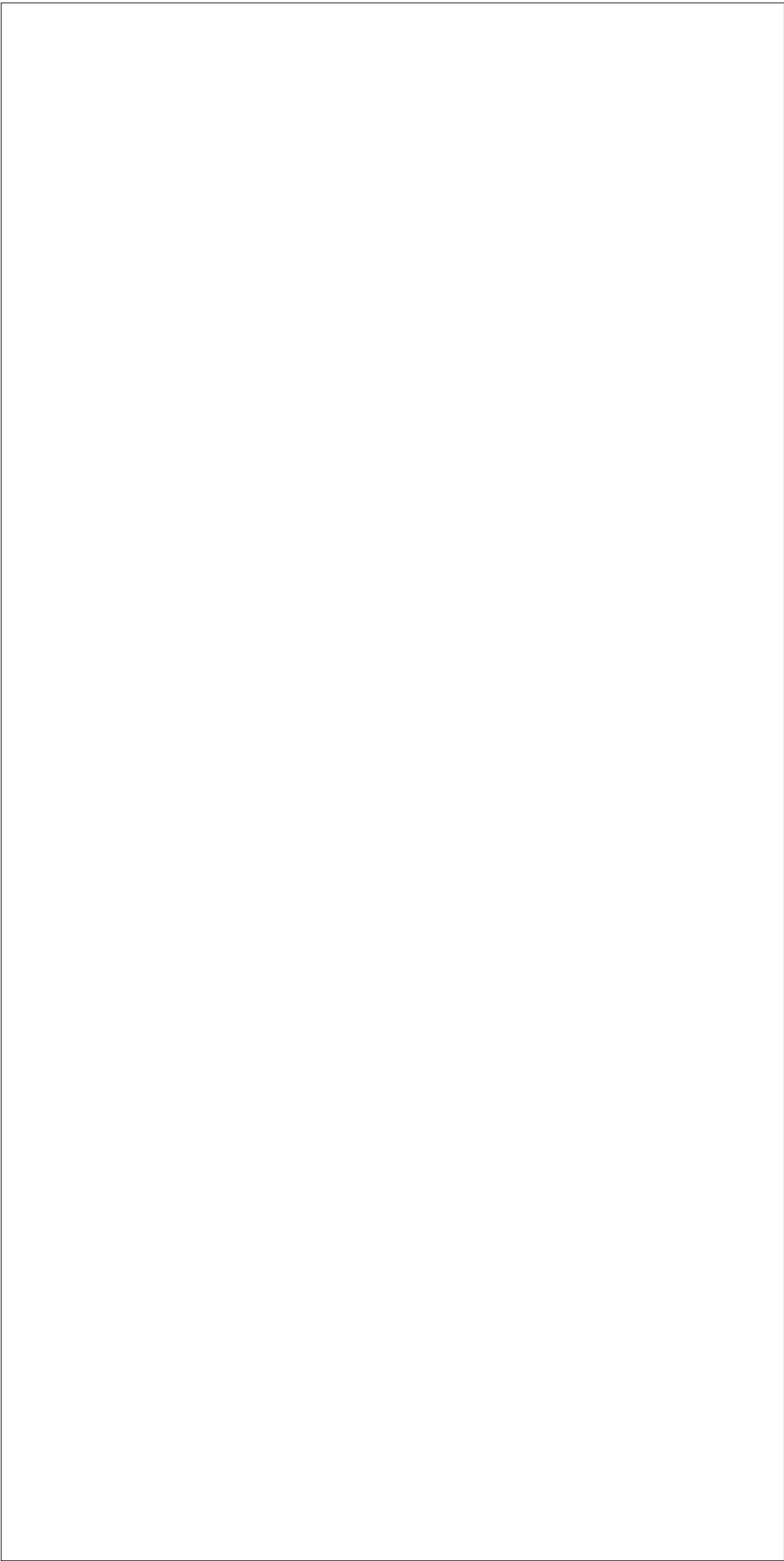
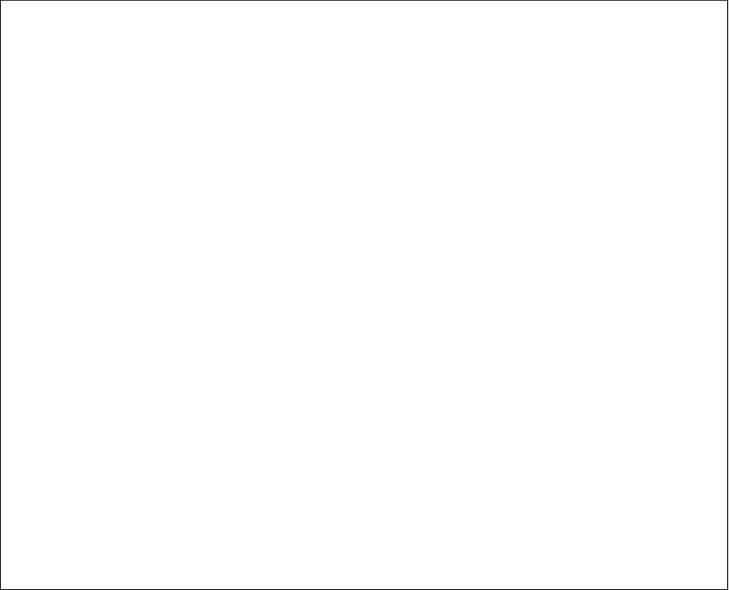
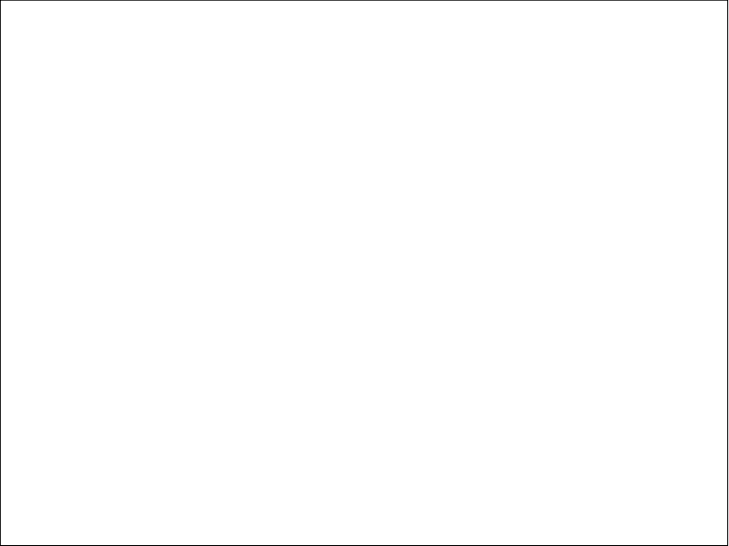




Photo by Airman 1st Class Larry DeFord
Tyler Lindsay, Montana Missoula Children's Theatre, teaches some of the cast of *Sleeping Beauty* at the community center.

Base children take the stage

by Stephen Ashley
Teen Correspondent

Many local children are the stars of the play *Sleeping Beauty*, showing at the youth center tonight and tomorrow.

The children, ranging from 4 to 15 years of age, are taking part in a program sponsored by the community center and the youth center. The event was coordinated by the Missoula Children's Theatre, and it debuts today at 7 p.m. at the youth center. An encore performance is Saturday at Noon.

The Missoula Children's Theatre provided everything the children needed to put on the play, such as costumes, props, make-up, lighting and even a set to work on. The only thing the theatre doesn't supply is the children themselves. They searched and found their stars here with an open audition, Monday.

The children's training schedule involved four hours of practice every day. Even after the auditions on Monday, the children went straight to work, rehearsing for two hours. They started as soon as Wednesday practicing without scripts. "I've been putting a lot of work into [the play]," said Nick Dienst, 13, who plays the king.

The parents are happy about their kids being involved in such a project.

"I'm excited they have things like this for the kids," said parent Donna Bawkin.

The theatre project encourages youth to stay busy during the summer months.

"I love working with children's theaters," said Kim Jones, 15, a student at Fort Walton Beach High School.

The play has many characters, from trolls to fairies, royalty and a jester. Both performances are free. For more information, call the youth center at 884-6938 or the community center at 884-6948.

Team DOC monitors alphanumeric pagers

by **Senior Master Sgt. Philip Withers**
Information Operations Office

An eight-person shop from the 25th Information Operations Squadron, known as the Electronic Systems Security Assessment Team but better known as "Team DOC," has become an essential tool to Hurlburt Field Special Operations warfighters as they support Air Force Special Operations Command and the 16th Special Operations Wing with leading-edge defensive counterinformation services.

Team DOC provides defensive counterinformation services to Special Operation Forces by monitoring Special Operations nonsecure communications. Operators within the 25th IOS are capable of monitoring conventional telephones, cellular telephones, facsimiles and radio transmissions. However, acting upon a request from AFSOC, the 25th IOS also provides a unique service – monitoring alphanumeric pagers.

With the advent of new technologies, AFSOC recognized that pager traffic could present an operations security challenge. This challenge, along with the fact that hundreds of alphanumeric, e-mail capable pagers were issued command-wide, required the action. Team DOC began the coordination of funding and legal requirements with both the 67th Information Operations Group, Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, and wing representatives while searching for a commercial off-the-shelf system capable of monitoring and recording pager traffic. The search was successful, and in November 1999, the necessary system was purchased.

Members of Team DOC then taught themselves the system.

The true test of the system's effectiveness came in January 2000 when the 25th IOS received a tasking to conduct services supporting the wing's mobility exercise – Focused Effort II. During the exercise, Team DOC began monitoring more than 300 wing pagers. The results were alarming. The monitors were able to pick up mission locations and timelines – information critical to mission effectiveness.

Armed with this information, Team DOC was able to work directly with the wing operations

security officer to determine methods to remedy the numerous security problems. Due to the prolific use of alphanumeric pagers here and the results of initial tests, pager monitoring is now part of the standard package when Team DOC conducts any monitor and assessment operation. In fact, currently during the 16th SOW-tasked monitor missions, more than 600 pagers are monitored.

In addition to standard monitoring and reporting of disclosures, the 25th IOS has managed to go beyond the norm by forging a working relationship with the newly formed 16th SOW information operations cell.

The creation of this cell was directed by the 16th SOW Commander, Col. David Scott, in an effort to increase the overall effectiveness of command and control information systems and to develop a counterinformation effort to protect our C2 systems. With OPSEC being so important to Special Operations, a strong relationship between the IO cell and Team DOC was quickly formed.

Numerous OPSEC concerns have been addressed between the IO cell and the 25th IOS. Most notably, the lack of STU-III (secure telephones) use was found to be of much concern to wing leadership. A working group was created to address that problem. Team DOC, as part of the working group, quickly began tallying statistics and generating additional data for the wing decision-makers.

The results of the "study" indicated two things. First, there was a general lack of secure usage for all contingency or exercise planning and deployment activities, and second, the wing doesn't have enough STU-IIIs to meet the needs of users.

With these facts in hand, the wing then directed that during contingencies and exercises, all battlestaff telephone communications would be conducted via auto-secure STU-III (a telephone that goes secure automatically when in use). This directed use of auto-secure STU-IIIs resulted in a dramatic decrease in reportable findings, increasing the wing's mission security and C2 effectiveness.

The 25th IOS defensive counterinformation services have continued to grow. Team

DOC has conducted 31 total monitoring missions in fiscal 2000, compared to a total of 15 missions in fiscal 1998, more than

a 100 percent increase in tasking. Col. Kenneth Poole, then 16th Operations Group deputy commander, summed up their job best

when he stated, "The men and women of the 25th IOS are real force multipliers to the mission of this wing."

For questions, contact the unit security manager or call Staff Sgt. Terrance Hyland at 884-6169 for assistance.



BEWARE THOR'S HAMMER

by Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

As the lightning-strike capitol of the world, Florida absorbs more than its share of the average 100 lightning bolts that strike the earth every second.

Lightning safety is an important factor to consider in the Fort Walton Beach area, from boating to hitting the beach. Getting the skinny on local lightning activity is made easier by the 16th Operations Support Squadron weather flight, which puts out a series of three notifications, warning members of the base community about incoming inclement weather.

There are three types of observations and notifications the weather service makes for lightning safety, said Keith Swanson, ground safety manager here.

There's a thunderstorm advisory that can be given anytime there's a potential for thunderstorms, often a few hours in advance of suspected storms, he said.

"The second issue from the weather service is a lightning watch," said Mr. Swanson. "Normally it's issued 30 minutes prior to when a lightning storm is within five nautical miles from the base. An actual lightning warning is issued whenever lightning is occurring within a five nautical mile radius of the runway."

Once an actual lightning warning is

issued, all outdoor activities should be terminated, said Mr. Swanson.

All flightline activity should be ceased, and people boating or swimming should leave the water immediately and take shelter if a storm develops, he said.

"If caught up in a lightning storm, people should seek shelter in a building or a vehicle," said Mr. Swanson. "People need to remember that common sense comes into play when dealing with lightning. Some of the most vulnerable places that a person can be are out doing recreational activities such as on a softball field, playing golf or being anywhere in the open where they can become the lightning rod."

According to the National Lightning Safety Institute, it's possible to estimate the distance of a lightning strike by counting the seconds between the strike itself and the thunder that follows. Every five seconds between the two equals a distance of about one mile. A count of 10 seconds is roughly two miles, and so on.

This method may allow people to judge approximate lightning distances, but it isn't a way to judge if one is safe from strikes.

"I encourage people, when outdoors, to be alert and know what the weather forecast is for that day," said Mr. Swanson. "When you see clouds building and you know that there's potential for lightning, be prepared to take cover."

In 1996, an individual was killed while changing a tire on a C-130 as part of a training operation, said Mr. Swanson. "This unfortunate mishap occurred when lightning struck the Hurlburt Field flightline."

"Lightning is very unpredictable," he said. "If you're out in severe weather, lightning can strike where you are."

(Editor's note: Information for this article was used from the NLSI Web site.)

NOAA Photo Library

LIFESTYLE

Military

Wing change of command

Col. David Scott relinquishes command of the 16th Special Operations Wing to Col. Lyle Koenig. The ceremony is June 29 at the Air Park at 9 a.m., and all are invited to attend. Attire is uniform of the day. Parking will be at a premium, so people are encouraged to walk or use base transportation. A shuttle runs from the parking lot across from the base theater to the Air Park beginning at 8:15 a.m. Call Maj. George Akins or 1st Lt. Julie deSylva at 884-2871 for more information.

Foreign language pay

People who receive Foreign Language Proficiency Pay are required to retest annually to continue receiving payments.

The Air Force changed FLPP procedures effective Jan. 1, making language testing a 12-month program versus the previous July 1 to Dec. 31 testing cycle. Contact the military personnel flight testing office at 884-5400 to schedule annual FLPP recertification testing.

Record update

The military personnel flight customer service element encourages all military members who haven't updated their Department of Defense Form 93, *Emergency Data Card*, or the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Form 8286, *Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate*, to report to the customer service element no later than July 15. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Sinserria Collazo or Airman LaVosha Davis at 884-5321 or 884-2657.

G.I. bill benefits

New public law, effective May 1, allows active duty members to contribute an additional \$600 to maximize Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits.

Members must be on active duty for 2 years before they can use the benefits. Participants who haven't completed 2 years are still eligible to contribute, but may not receive the benefits until the 2 years have been completed. For more information, call the education center at 884-6500 or 884-6724.

Community

O Negative blood donors needed

Elizabeth Wood a retired civil service employee at Eglin Air Force Base will undergo artery by-pass surgery July 19 due to severe obstructions. Ms. Wood is anemic, and it's critical that she has a supply of blood prior to the surgery. She can only accept O Negative blood. For information on donating blood, call Vanessa Thomas at (888) 905-3344.

Farewell party

A going away party for Col. David Scott, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, is today at The Officers' Hooch. The social hour starts at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$8 per person, which can be paid through your unit representative, but free for those not eating. Attire is casual dress. Everyone is invited.

NCOA meeting

The Air Commando NCO Association chapter holds its monthly meeting Saturday at 6 p.m. in J.R. Rockers' Daytona room. Each member is requested to attend and bring a friend. Call Tech. Sgt. Bob Love at 884-4995, Master Sgt. Charles Glotzbach at 884-6206 or retired Chief Master Sgt. John Greer at 939-6659 for more information.

Children's theater

Missoula Children's Theater performs "Sleeping Beauty" today at 7 p.m. and Saturday at noon at the Hurlburt Field Youth Center. The children's theater has been rehearsing all week in preparation for today's performance. For more information, call the youth center at 884-3655 or the community center at 884-6948.

Sound of Independence VI

Hurlburt Field is preparing for Sound of Independence VI, June 29 from 2 to 10 p.m. Some highlights of the day include a wrestling event, a pig race, the cardboard boat regatta and a fireworks show. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 884-3820 or 884-3821.

Family support

Childcare for permanent change of station, an Air Force Aid program, has expanded to include all ranks. This program provides 20 hours of free childcare for each child to be used within the first 30 days of arrival or 30 days prior to departure. A copy of the member's orders must be brought to the family support center relocation staff and exchanged for a certificate of eligibility. A list of base home day care providers will be provided. For information, call 884-5441.

Thrift shop closes

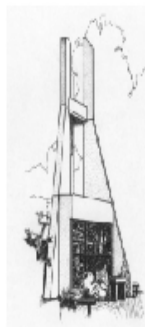
The Hurlburt Field Thrift Shop will close the entire month of July and will reopen Aug. 4. Consignments will be accepted beginning Aug. 6.

Classes

Air Command and Staff College

The recruiting drive for this year's Air Command and Staff College nonresident studies seminar program is now in progress. To enroll call 884-6724 or e-mail terry.padgett@hurlburt.af.mil.

Hurlburt Field Chapel (884-7795)



Catholic Masses

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:30 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:45 a.m. (praise & worship),

11:15 a.m. (traditional),

12:30 p.m. (Gospel)

Vacation Bible school 9 a.m. to noon

Monday through June 29

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel 1

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of

each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111)

Jum'ah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies



Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field (884-7648)

Friday and Sunday—(R) "The Mummy Returns," starring Brendan Fraser and Rachel Wiesz—A chain of events find the corpse of Imhotep resurrected. The mummy Imhotep walks the earth once more, determined to fulfill his quest for immortality. But another force has also been set loose in the world, one born of the darkest rituals of ancient Egyptian mysticism, and even more powerful than Imhotep. When these two forces clash, the fate of the world will hang in the balance, sending the O'Connells' on a desperate race to save the world from unspeakable evil, and rescue their son before it's too late.

Saturday—(PG-13) "Driven," starring Sylvester Stallone and Kip Pardue—A young hot shot driver is in the middle of a championship season and is coming apart at the seams. A former champion is called in to give him guidance.

Eglin (882-1066)

Friday and Sunday—(PG-13) "A Knight's Tale," starring Heath Ledger and Mark Addy—"If a man believes enough, a man can do anything," a poor thatcher tells his son William, "a man can change his stars." But one day at a medieval jousting tournament, fate deals the unheralded William a shot and before long he has reinvented himself.

Saturday—(R) "Bridget Jones's Diary," starring Renee Zellweger and Colin Firth—32 year-old Bridget decides it's time to take control of her life and start keeping a diary. With a taste for adventure, an opinion on every subject and everything in between, she's turning the page on a whole new life.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled play dates.)

LIFESTYLE

Classes

Air War College

The base education office is now taking applications to enroll eligible officers and federal employees for Air War College nonresident studies. Sign up deadline is July 13. Forms are available at www.maxwell.af.mil/au/awc/enrolppr.htm. Please take completed applications to building 90220, education center, or call 884-6724 for more details.

Senior NCO Academy

Air Force senior NCOs are eligible for the Army, Navy and Coast Guard senior NCO academies. Air Force members in the rank of senior master sergeant or senior master sergeant select may volunteer to attend either the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy or the Army Sergeant Major Academy. Attendance at the Coast Guard Academy is open to E-7s only, who have been identified as a nonselect primary or alternate. To check if you have made the SNCOA primary or alternate lists go to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/aftrain/sncoa/sncoa.htm and view the nonselect primary and alternate lists.

Volunteers must fax or e-mail a volunteer statement to Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center. Statements must include name, rank, Social Security number and the desired senior enlisted academy. Members are scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

University of Oklahoma

The base education office welcomes the University of Oklahoma to Hurlburt Field. The university is now offer-

ing an accredited graduate degree program designed to meet the needs of the base's high operations tempo. It's accelerated course schedule allows students to complete their master's degree in only 18 months. Registration for fall is now underway. For more information, call OU's program representative, Kelly Gaskell at 581-3000 or e-mail at aphurlburt@aol.com.

Sports

Scuba diving course

An open water scuba certification course is offered July 8 through July 21 and July 22 through Aug. 4. The cost is \$105 due at sign-up, \$55 for books and administration and \$45 for a certification boat dive. Class starts at 3 p.m. Sign-up at the Hurlburt Dive Club at 884-7930 or at outdoor recreation at 884-6939.

Golf classic

Gator Lakes hosts an open golf classic Saturday and Sunday with tee times starting at 6:30 a.m. each day. This is a two-person multi-format team event. Both players must have an authorized United States Golf Association Ghin handicap, and at least one player from each team must be an authorized user of Gator Lakes Golf Club. For more information, call 881-2251.

Junior golf clinic

Gator Lakes Golf Club sponsors the 2001 Junior Golf Clinic each Tuesday July 3 to July 31 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The fee is \$75 per child and includes 5 weeks of instruction, junior golf cap, golf shirt, rules and etiquette book, snacks every evening and an awards banquet.

Deadline to sign-up is Tuesday. For more information, call Mike Treylinek at 881-2251 or 881-0007.

Tackle football registration

Registration has begun for youth full-contact football (ages 11 and 12 only) and continues to July 14. Cost is \$35 for Eglin Air Force Base Youth Center members and \$45 for non-members.

Players must be 11, but not 13, prior to Aug. 1. For more information, contact Terry Evans, Eglin Youth Sports Director, at 882-8212 or 882-5074.

Basketball camp

Plans for the second annual Perseverance Basketball Camp are underway. The youth basketball camp is July 23 to 27. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Ron Rucker at 883-4397.

Youth soccer

A youth soccer camp for children ages 8 to 13 is offered July 23 at Eglin Air Force Base. The cost is \$40 per child and space is limited to the first 30 paid participants. For more information, call 884-6355.

Marathon

The Fifth Annual U.S. Air Force Marathon is Sept. 22 at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Registration begins July 1. More than 200 awards will be given. For more information, visit the Web site at afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil or call 1-800-467-1823.

SPORTS

Tough training builds dynamic TACP troops



(From left to right) Tactical Air Control Party candidates, airmen Richard Tulchin and Jesse Brown, and Hawk Flight instructor Staff Sgt. Zoobie Martin lead the pack during Wednesday morning's combat run.

by Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Most people have a way to keep in shape. Some people lift weights, while others swim laps or run around a track. But Tactical Air Control Party candidates endure more unusual physical fitness routines, courtesy of their omnipresent and ever-creative instructors.

Because of their unique occupation, TACP candidates must bring their physi-

cal training to another level, beyond keeping in shape. More than just a freeway to "Ripped City," the workouts bring the flight together as a team, said Tech. Sgt. Joel Hokkanen, supervisor of Hawk Flight instructors, Det. 1, 334th Training Squadron.

"We train for the end result — the Army physical fitness test," said Sergeant Hokkanen. "All of our training is focused on the candidates making it through the test and the block four field trip, which is a week out in the field, and is a lot of walking."

The Army PT test allows two minutes each to complete a certain number of push-ups and sit-ups (depending on age), and also incorporates a two-mile timed run.

"Our PT is different every day," said Sergeant Hokkanen. "We have standard PT Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but candidates don't expect to have that same routine every time. For every mistake they make, they're down doing push-ups. If they aren't sounding off loud enough on the runs, then I guess we need to do a couple extra miles."

The future TACP troops and their instructors also run or march on Thursdays, usually four to eight miles. To break any monotony, they do various extra workouts, such as beach PT and "jungle runs" through the woods.

"PT duration is de-

pendent on performance," said Sergeant Hokkanen. "If the flight is squared away, crossing Ts and dotting Is, PT goes like *that*," he said, giving his fingers a brisk snap.

"Physical training builds a lot of teamwork between the candidates," said the instructor. "I take my guys to the obstacle course to do teamwork drills, like four-man push-ups and log presses."

"If they're at the point where they're working as a team, then we've achieved our purpose," said Sergeant Hokkanen. "That's when we start doing other things, like going to the pool, the beach or the obstacle course."

The TACP hopefuls don't endure their workouts alone. Their instructors don't just dish it out, they take it, and are right there every grunt, gasp and step of the way.

"[The instructors give us] a good workout," said Senior Airman Robert Rangel, an Eagle Flight candidate who's flight graduates this week. "The instructors really give it all they've got. When they're up there on the stand, they give 110 percent."

That motivation extends beyond the usual routine, and the instructors won't give up on a candidate easily.

"If a student is falling behind the power curve, we'll give him special assistance and the instructors will be out there working with him," said Sergeant Hokkanen. "We have one guy who runs like a tank, but the kid's got heart. He refuses to quit. We'll just keep working on him until he can make the time."

"Our PT program isn't designed to eliminate people," said Senior Airman Clay Britton, Eagle Flight instructor. "It's a building process, and it really makes the flight come together."



Eagle Flight TACP candidates hold five-pound bricks while doing arm rotations.



Airman Chad Gill, an Eagle Flight TACP candidate, holds his fellow airman's feet during morning PT.

Photos by Airman Sam Taylor